



**MDSC/Canadian Community Mental Health Network (CCMHN)
Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Date: April 15, 2024

Location: Teams

Link to next meeting: [here](#)

Attendees:

- Martin Boucher
- Gary Thandi
- Sharla Robertson
- Jacqui Wasacase
- Kristina Hennessey Braun
- Dylan Hellwig

Opening:

- Welcoming Remarks: The meeting begins with Martin Boucher volunteering to chair the session, welcoming everyone, and mentioning the agenda posted in the chat.
- Attendance and Apologies: Sharla Robertson notes that Alison sent her regrets for not attending and mentions waiting on a new representative from Relief.

Updates from Members:

- Jacqui Wasacase shares that Rainbow has started another program enabling work with six youth.

Resource Sharing and Capacity Building:

- Kristina Hennessey Braun discusses the ongoing development of a resource portal, which includes adding various resources and adjusting the login page. She gives a live demonstration of how the portal works, showing categories like resources, tools, training, and meeting minutes.

Discussion on Letter Submissions to MPs:



- Kristina Hennessey Braun updates on the number of letters sent to MPs regarding various concerns and highlights responses from specific MPs.

Outreach and Engagement:

- Dylan Hellwig reports on efforts in securing meetings with MPs to discuss mental health policies and budget allocations, stressing the importance of allocating the newly announced \$500 million for youth mental health.

Open Discussion on Service Challenges and Best Practices:

- A significant part of the meeting centered around challenges faced due to the opioid crisis, with personal anecdotes underscoring the dire need for effective outreach and response strategies.
- There's an emphasis on the importance of training and resource provision for frontline staff to handle the complexities of their roles amidst these challenges. This was identified as an area that the network would like to further explore.
- A discussion was had around responsible language pertaining to different mental health topics, such as 'substance health', in place of 'addictions'. The network expressed interest in further learning and growth opportunities in this area.

Grant Writing and Training:

- Sharla Robertson initiated a conversation about the grant training course and seeks feedback on potentially offering more specific training on grant writing and staying updated with changing trends in proposal language and requirements.

Closing Remarks:

- The meeting concludes with plans to continue exploring ways to address the discussed challenges, share resources, and enhance training for members. The next meeting is scheduled, and participants are encouraged to contribute ideas for future sessions.